

THE LIBERATOR

A Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Cause of Good Government and the Advancement of the American Negro.

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LOS ANGELES, CAL., MAY 24, 1912

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No. 27

The Soil Draws no Color Line, and Neither Does the Rain, nor the Sun.

Booker T. Washington Speaks to an Audience of 8,000

Agriculture Offers Equal Chances to Black Men and White, and There is the Black's Quickest Way to Industrial Freedom

A plea to Negroes to prefer country life to that of crowded cities was made by Booker T. Washington, head of the Tuskegee Institute, before eight thousand persons—largely Negroes—in Convention Hall last night. The Negro educator was speaking chiefly to the delegates of the African Methodist Episcopal conference, and he urged the church to lead its people "back to the soil," for, he said, "the soil draws no color line, and neither does the rain, nor the sun, but they grow sustenance for the black man the same as for the white man and make him master of his little acres."

Pointing to the big audience of intelligent looking Negroes, to the Methodist bishops seated behind him on the platform, to the choir of two hundred in the rear, and to the throng of ministers at his right, the speaker said:

"I never was so proud of being a Negro as I am tonight. I would not trade places with a white man. I have searched the pages of history and they do not tell of a race that has made such strides in civilization as the Negroes of the United States of America, now only forty-eight years out of slavery."

"NEED THE WHITE MEN"

Doctor Washington saw a settlement of the so-called race problem in the new attitude of white men toward Negroes and of Negroes toward white men. "White men are beginning to talk more to us rather than about us. We are dependent upon the white man. He should be our teacher. As ministers of the Negro Church, you should invite white men into your pulpits. We need them. We must meet them face to face to solve the problem."

Doctor Washington continued: **OPPORTUNITY OF THE MINISTERS.**

"No class of individuals may exert more influence over the masses of Negroes throughout the United States than the Negro ministers. Each minister here has resting upon him a tremendous responsibility."

"What can this body do to strengthen the millions of our people in this country, 82 per cent of whom live in the country districts or in small villages? All things considered, the Negro is at his best, body and soul, in the rural districts. He is usually at his worst in the city. Plainly one of the duties of your church is to help keep the Negro where he has the best chance."

A feature of last night's meeting which brought praise, especially from the white part of the audience, was the singing of the excellent chorus choir of two hundred. An hour's program of religious, classical and Negro songs was given.

—Kansas City Times.

SOUTH CAROLINA LEADING IN CHURCH WORK FOR THE NEGROES

A leader in many things, South Carolina announces its purpose to lead in still another thing. The Episcopal church of the whole country has debated for 20 years the question of supervision of church work by and for Negroes. In 1907 and again in 1910, in the church's general conventions, the bishop Suffragan plan was discussed and adopted legally. This plan has been taken advantage of by New York, Philadelphia and Chicago, for larger supervision of work among all classes, white, black and foreign, but it was the Negro work that first suggested the idea of it.

Now the Episcopal church in South Carolina, through its regular white organization, determines to elect a Negro bishop, the first in America. Bishop Guerri has secured funds, in part in the north, to maintain the new official for a term of years, but he has found, so he reports, that Episcopalians of South Carolina, the whites as well as the blacks are eager to contribute to this fund as far as able, and they were the first to do so. Indeed, so he states, South Carolina, and not the north, leads in making the innovation possible.

The bishop Suffragan will be constructively under the white bishop, in order that there be not two Episcopalian churches in one diocese, but the Negroes will have their own annual council, and their bishop, when chosen, will be their own leader in practically all things.

EDWARD SILVER THE MARTYR

The news of Edward Silver's death was received by the colored people of Southern California with profound sorrow. Like martyrs before his time, he died in prison and found a grave in a prison cemetery, but the eternal principles for which they gave up their lives, have gone right on gathering added force for each sacrifice made in its defense. He died not in vain, for the struggle to save him from the gallows brought to the surface a number of strong but unknown young men and women and taught all, the valuable lesson of how to labor unitedly in a common cause. Believing that Silver had acted in self-defense, a right guaranteed every citizen, they had prepared to keep up the fight for his life indefinitely. The destruction of the right of self-defense would spell the down fall of this nation.

While it fell to our lot to take a prominent part in the fight for the maintenance of the American principle, no one rendered greater service than did Mr. J. Thomas Norris, who was, then, fortunately, president of the Forum. With a weaker or less intelligent man at the head of that organization, the case might have been lost for lack of funds, as there was at the start considerable opposition to taking any hand in the man's interest.

There are some people, so constructed, that they would let a man drown before they would assist a man to rescue him with whom they entertained a difference of opinion. There were the fainthearted, who lose hope if the fight is not won in the first round: those who believe that the weak are always wrong; and that big bunch who are always on the look out for the popular side.

It was this aggregation that Mr. Norris had to care for and keep out of the way of the lion hearted. With a cool head and firm hand, he was equal to every emergency.

In a fight like this, those who persist in saying: "there is no use," are always in evidence. Their banner is the signal of distress;

placing their names high among the contributors but never give anything.

But the people, who make good their promises, came forward with the cash whenever needed. A good woman, 70 years old, living in a rented house and working by the day, gave \$2.50 and promised more, if needed. One man, whose name is withheld for reasons, gave \$5. The firm of Alexander & Bowman, \$5. Mr. Nat Love, a laborer, \$5 and the number contributing 25 cents to \$1.00 ran into hundreds. Mr. J. J. Jones, while contributing liberally, loaned \$25 to assist in defraying Attorney Dardin's expenses for his last visit to Sacramento, where he made the final plea, to the Supreme Court Judges which resulted in their letter to the Governor which secured the commutation of the death sentence.

In their successful fight to save Silver from the gallows, the Negroes made no mistake. They maintained the right of the Negro to defend himself against any one. The race is closer together by the struggle. Sheriff Ralphs, for protecting Silver against mob violence, has earned the lasting gratitude of the colored voters and citizens. Of course he did his duty, but how many men in his capacity do their duty when the news papers stir up the mob against a defenseless Negro?

Although every intelligent person in San Bernardino County knew that Silver killed Smithson in self defense, Judge B. F. Bledsoe sentenced him to hang. Judges should not permit themselves to be used as an echo to the clamor of the lawless element that resorts to "lynch law" against the defenseless.

BRUCE BEACH FRONT

A sea side resort will be opened for bathing and fishing June 17th. The opening will be a grand affair.

Bruce Beach Front is located at North Manhattan Beach. Take cars to Peck's Pavillion at Hill street station. 50 cents round trip.

WILL GIVE A RECITAL

Miss Bessie Williams, a popular and talented musician, will give a recital at the First A. M. E. Church on Monday evening, May 27th. Miss Williams will be assisted by Mr. John A. Gray. Prices 25 and 35 cents.

ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Mrs. James Parks, who underwent an operation, recently, is rapidly recovering.

Mrs. D. W. Boyer, state president of the Federated Women's Clubs is in the city on her annual visit.

The clubs of Southern California held an important meeting at the A. M. E. Church, Monday.

Mrs. G. Woodson Wickliffe, who has been in the hospital for a week, has returned home.

Mrs. J. W. Moxly and daughter, of Santa Monica, attended the Club meeting, Monday.

Rev. R. M. King, presiding elder of the A. M. E. Church, Macon, Ga., district, is in the city for a short stay. He is the guest of his sister, Mrs. J. W. Williams, 1220 Birch street.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Daniels, Mrs. Goodlow, Miss Georgia Elgin and Mr. Frank White, of this city, and the Misses Hebe Mack and Edna Johnson, of Hollywood, were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edmonds, Sawtelle.

Mrs. Mattie Middleton has removed to Sawtelle, where she has purchased a home.

Mrs. Middleton is the mother of Mrs. Percy Brooks of that city.

Mr. John Kay, brother of Mr. B. F. Kay, is a recent arrival from South Carolina.

J. G. Edwards
1360 E 33rd St

San Bernardino

**DEATH CLEARS THE
CALENDAR**

**San Bernardino Negro Released
from Penalty**

**Case Aroused Colored People
Throughout the State**

SAN BERNARDINO, May 21.

—Death has freed Ed. Silver, Negro slayer of Deputy Sheriff Will Smithson at Daggett, Silver was sentenced to hang by Judge B. F. Bledsoe, after pleading guilty to murder. The Negroes of the State were aroused over the court's judgement, and employed a Negro attorney of Los Angeles, who carried the case to the Supreme Court, and secured a commutation of the sentence to life imprisonment.

Silver offense was the act of a man driven to bay during the night by a man with whom he had been having trouble. The man called an officer, Smithson, and with him went searching for Silver. The latter thought it was a case of lynching. Smithson and other white men had revolvers drawn and Silver was the first to fire.

Smithson was shot and died some hours afterward. Mob violence was worked up here, and under the fear of being lynched, Silver pleaded guilty. Prior to the shooting, he bore an unimpeachable reputation for honesty of peace and quiet.—L. A. Times.

QUILT TACKING

Thursday, May 16, the Booker T. Washington Art Club was entertained by Mrs. N. W. Cobb and Mrs. J. W. Payne at the latter's residence on West 36th street.

Old-fashioned quilt tacking was the chief resort of the evening.

Light refreshments of salad, bread and butter sandwiches and ice tea were served.

The club will be entertained at the residence of Mrs. Oliver of East Hollywood, Thursday, May 23rd.

**FOOL'S PARADISE DEALING
IN REAL ESTATE**

Last Sunday the Fool's Paradise (Forum), went into the real estate business. A bargain in the shape of 40 acres of land for sale at \$30,000 was handed in. Without a cent in sight or even a suggestion as to how to get one, a red hot discussion was engaged in, regarding the best manner of its subdivision, so that each would get his full share. Pleasure parks and eating houses sprang into being as quick and as noiselessly as mushrooms grow. The park trees were literally strung with sleeping hammocks, beneath which were hundreds of easy chairs.

While these child-men were indulging in that mid-summer dream, the two promoters, who have the agency for the land, took part in the hot-air pumping process and seemed to think that they had actually sold the land. Yet, not a suggestion had been made or a plan offered, by which to get the money to pay for the land upon which they were already building eating houses and swinging sleeping hammocks.

To say that these men spent two full hours subdividing and parceling out other people's land without offering a single suggestion as to the means of raising the \$30,000 the price, is hard to believe, but it is true.

People who are attracted to the place, out of curiosity, often, on leaving, ask:

"What do those men meet there for?"

The one answer is: the one man who runs it, has but one object and that is: that the people, who visit the place, shall leave behind them all hope of learning anything.

The concern is run for the promotion of ignorance. The young people who visit the place are told that they are smarter than Du Bois or Booker T. Washington and the young things believe it. Of course, as long as they entertain such a dream, it will be impossible to learn anything farther.

Such young people will not attend lectures, and will listen to nobody but themselves.

BIG PICNIC

The Elks will open their park, Seal Garden, with a big picnic on May 30th. Arrangements have been made to care for a big crowd and those desiring a pleasant outing should go to Seal Garden Park on that occasion. In leasing that park and opening it to members of the race the Elks have rendered them a valued service. Good order will be maintained. Ten minute car service.

Presiding Elder King of Macon, Ga., delivered a splendid address at the Lyceum last Sunday. He urged our people to devote more time to business and less to having a good time.

"Too much time is devoted to pleasure and not enough to things that are worth while," he said.

He especially urged the Negroes to buy farms in the country and become self-supporting instead of flocking to the cities where they find it much harder to succeed. His address was practical and wholesome.

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**AFRO-AMERICAN GIRL TO
GRADUATE**

Miss Clarice Jones, daughter of Lawyer Thomas L. Jones, of this city, has successfully passed the tests at the Ithaca (New York) Conservatory of Music, and will receive her diploma in June. She is the only colored girl enrolled in the institution.

For something good to eat, call at MAY'S RESTAURANT, 622 E. 8th Street. Meals and services first-class.

THE LIBERATOR

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J. L. EDMONDS, Editor and Business Manager.

JEFF L. EDMONDS, JR., Assistant Editor.

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How to Write for The Liberator.

Write only on one side of your paper.
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A BROWNSVILLE APOLOGIST

The attempt of a Negro, here and there, to apologize for Brownsville, is exceedingly pathetic.

One of these Brownsville apologists, after trying in vain to get an audience of Negro voters to listen to a Roosevelt speech, finally succeeded in delivering it to a literary society composed of high school students. This speech was as humiliating to the race as it was printed in a sheet called the V—W—, but known around town as the echo of dying hope. This was carried to the Roosevelt headquarters where, perhaps, the money

for its publication was obtained. It was there it had its biggest circulation, and its most numerous readers; for its promoters are so well known that there is hardly a sane person in town who would take the thing home or unwrap it if the post man brought it.

The prevailing supposition is, that the publishers of these fake pre-convention and pre-election sheets, expect no one but their financial backers to read them—nobody else does. With the sucker's money, these fellows put on a bold front by running a number of free ads, knowing that the firms, whose ads they carry, will reap no benefit as the thing has no circulation.

The candidate for office, who puts his card in such sheets, loses the vote of every voter who by chance sees it. People vote against such candidates on the ground that they either haven't sense enough to fill the office, or, are trying to dodge their obligation to certain citizens.

The Negro, who wants to support Col. Roosevelt or anyone else, has the right to do it. But—when it comes to apologizing for the Brownsville lynching, that crime of the century, if there is a spark of manhood left in the Negro he will draw the line there. The Negro who is around apologizing for Brownsville, is fooling no one but himself. Everybody knows what he is out for.

Unworthy, tricky, office seekers and politicians will make use of such Negroes that they may close the door of hope to other Negroes after the election.

K. P. CASE BEFORE SUPREME COURT

Alton B. Parker, former presidential candidate, argued before the Supreme Court of the United States in the famous Georgia case of the Colored Order of Knights of Pythias. S. A. T. Watkins, assistant corporation counsel of Chicago, an Afro-American, is associate attorney.

Col. Roosevelt and the Negro Voters.

Thus far in the present campaign, we have taken no part. While we have not agreed with all of the president's official acts, we have never accorded with Col. Roosevelt's attitude toward mob violence and his Brownsville outrage. After the national conventions have been held and the candidates named, we will then decide which candidate we will support.

Oh, no, the Col. did not give the Negro "a square deal" at Brownsville, and that act is without a parallel in the military annals of the civilized world. The Negro who apologizes for Brownsville, is unworthy to live in the same house with a Negro woman.

Both the president and Col. Roosevelt are unpopular with the Negro voters and it is exceedingly doubtful whether or not those Negroes in the East who are supporting Col. Roosevelt now, will do so if he is nominated. The new slogan "beat Roosevelt at the primaries and Taft at the polls" may be reversed.

The Negroes of the North and west are doing some thinking. Col. Roosevelt's Brownsville, his position on lynching and his "recall of judicial decisions" are full of danger to the Negro.

We will support the candidate that we believe will do the most for the best interests of the country, and who shows that he has that quality of manhood that no race or part of our citizenship will be sacrificed.

A MASS MEETING

The Citizens Committee will hold a mass meeting at Rev. Akin's church in the Furlong Tract Tuesday evening, May 28th. The Nurse training affair will be discussed by able speakers.

You must be present and take part.

THE STRONGEST NEGRO PAPER PUBLISHED

El Dorado, Kans., May 16, 1912
Editor J. L. Edmonds
Los Angeles, Cal.

Dear Sir and Friend:—

I wish to subscribe for *The Liberator*. I think it one of the strongest, best and most progressive papers edited by our people. A newspaper must have character the same as an individual, and when one comes to know the editor of *The Liberator*, he expects that paper to have rank and standing.

Enclosed please find check for \$1.50. Please remember me to Bro. Snell and others. Best wishes for health and success.

Yours truly,
Theodore W. Jones
Box 192.

Notable among the many pretty functions of the season was a May party, given recently by Mesdames Batson and Hall. The affair was in honor of Miss Fay Hall, whose betrothal to Ernest L. Bynum was made public on that occasion.

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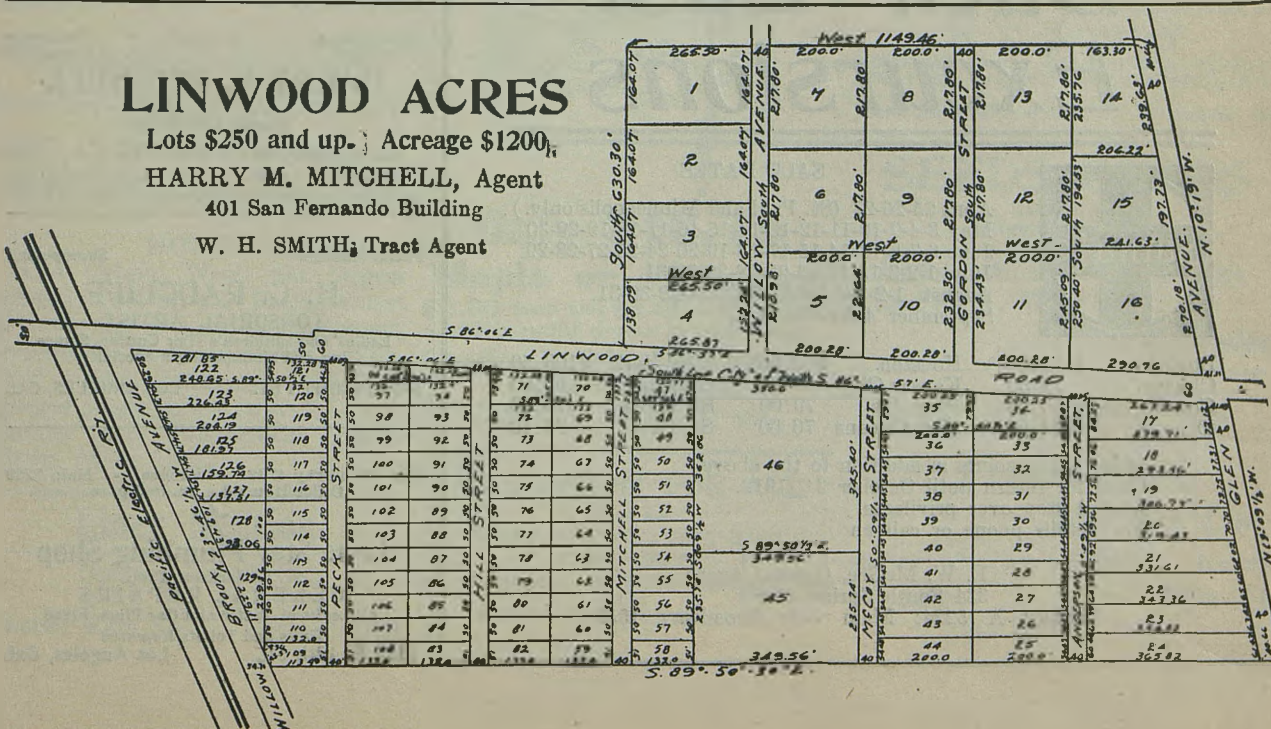
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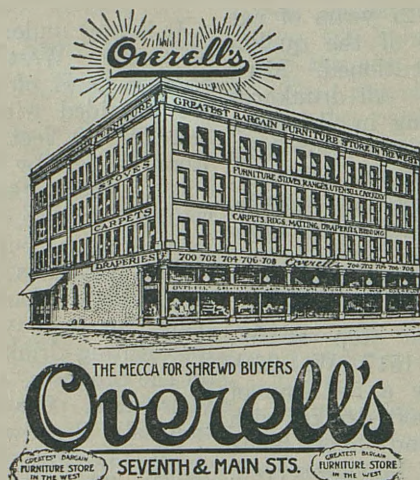
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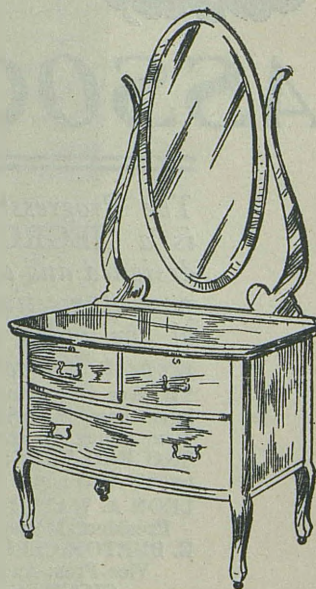
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814 Central Ave.

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